THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

"THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE."

Sow with a generous hand;
  Pause not for toil and pain;
Weary not through the heat of summer,
  Weary not through the cold spring rain;
But wait till the autumn comes,
  For the sheaves of golden grain.

* * * * *

Sow;—while the seeds are lying
  In the warm earth's bosom deep,
And your warm tears fall upon it,
  They will stir in their quiet sleep,
And the green blades rise the quicker,
  Perchance, for the tears you weep.

Then sow;—for the hours are fleeting,
  And the seed must fall to-day;
And care not what hands shall reap it,
  Nor if you shall have passed away
Before the waving corn-fields
  Shall gladden the sunny day.

Sow;—and look onward, upward,
  Where the starry light appears;
Where, in spite of the coward's doubting,
  Or your own heart's trembling fears,
You shall reap in joy the harvest
  You have sown to-day in tears.

ADELAIDE ANN PROCTOR.

VOLUME V.

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RAGGED SCHOOL UNION, 1, EXETER HALL;
KENT & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW;
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

TO OUR READERS.

THE present volume is the thirty-second Annual Record of Ragged School Work, chiefly in this metropolis. Its pages have been open to friends and workers everywhere, so that this Society may claim to have furnished a world-wide statement of a great and good work among the outcasts of society—a work which is imperishable, and which has left its permanent mark on our civilisation.

The all-embracing sweep of the Elementary Education Act has extended its compulsory clauses to the rural districts, and rendered labour prohibitory between the ages of ten and fourteen, unless sanctioned by a certificate of educational proficiency. But there is now, and will continue to be for some time, in town and country, a residuum which needs the special treatment afforded by our more parental institutions. That the social and religious work of this Society is very greatly needed admits of no dispute; and it is gratifying to note that this important part of the work has been very much extended. Moreover, the Ragged School system is very elastic, and recognises every effort as auxiliary whose object is the temporal and spiritual elevation of the waifs and strays of society, and helps such as far as its means will allow.

This year has been one of great commercial depression, and the Society's funds have suffered severely in consequence. The great Centenary festival in honour of Robert Raikes, of Gloucester, has been celebrated. Although the founder of the Sunday School system, his own immediate work lay chiefly amongst juveniles who were ragged and vicious, and in an incipient criminal condition. His mantle having fallen on the shoulders of this Society, the practical outcome of the feeling evoked in this celebration, it is hoped, will be the strengthening of its hands and the enriching of its coffers. This year is made notable by the retirement of Mr. Gent after long and faithful service, and the appointment of Mr. Kirk as his successor.

Some dear friends have taken their final leave of this world of shadows. Westminster, Hackney, Notting Hill, and Stratford hold fast their fragrant memories. They worked all the day, and the curtain of night has welcomed them to their well-earned repose.

As a closing note, we would express our thankfulness to Almighty God for sparing the life of our noble President. Though nearing the ripe age of eighty, his mental eye is not dimmed, nor his spiritual force abated.

This Society and its affiliated institutions are now preparing resolutely, in the strength of God, for a year of renewed and extended effort. To one and to all we hear a voice saying, "Be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

R. J. CURTIS, *Editor.*

1, EXETER HALL, LONDON,
October, 1880.

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